

AIRS Repeater Suite for Long Mesa
Proposal to the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
August 17, 2010

Request for Concurrence

The Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) is presenting a plan to enhance the Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) to the SIEC for its concurrence. The proposed enhancement will put an AIRS repeater suite into operation at the existing Bureau of Indian Affairs Truxton Canyon Agency's (BIA TCA's) communication site at Long Mesa.

Background

Numerous incidents have demonstrated the need for emergency communications in the area that will be served by the Long Mesa site. In particular, the severe flooding experienced on the Havasupai Reservation in August of 2008 brought agencies serving the region together to reassess the area's needs and propose additional AIRS coverage to help meet those needs.

Benefits

The primary beneficiaries of the additional system coverage gained through the use of the additional repeater suite are Coconino County and the Havasupai Tribe. Coconino County will gain significant additional coverage in the previously underserved western part of the county and the Havasupai Tribe will receive its first AIRS coverage. ADEM and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) are also primary collaborators on the project, with a goal of enhancing the overall capability of AIRS to perform as a statewide interoperability resource.

Implementation

The Long Mesa project will make use of one of three AIRS flyaway suites belonging to ADEM. DPS and ADEM are collaborating to provide the remaining equipment and labor required to install and activate the repeater suite. An MOU/IGA must be established prior to the installation, and that process is underway. If that process is completed in a timely manner, the implementation work is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.